

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 02754 200951Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01 PA-02 /047 W

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R 200933Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1953

INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS RABAT 2754

SECSTATE FOR NEA

USIA FOR IOR, INA, IPS, IBS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT

SUBJECT: MOROCCAN MEDIA COVERAGE OF ISRAELI ELECTIONS, MAY 19

1. WHILE NO INDEPENDENT COMMENT HAS YET APPEARED ON ISRAELI ELECTIONS IN MOROCCAN PRESS, HEADLINES AND CHOICE OF FOREIGN COMMENT CITED REFLECTS WIDELY HELD CONVICTION THAT LIKUD VICTORY IS A SERIOUS SETBACK FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

2. IN PRO-GOVERNMENT PRESS, MINISTRY OF INFORMATION'S AL ANBA HEADLINES "LIKUD VICTORY A DISAPPOINTMENT FOR WORLD PUBLIC OPINION." LE MATIN SAYS "THE ARAB WILL NOT BE DIVERTED BY A VOTE OF DELIBERATE TURNING BACK," WHILE SISTER PUBLICATION MAROC SOIR HEADLINES "PESSIMISM IN WASHINGTON."

3. OPPOSITION PAPERS ALL GIVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO RESULTS. TYPICAL HEADS: MUHARRIR (USFP, SOCIALIST LEFT) - "SPEEDING UP TOWARD AN EXPLOSION IN THE MIDDLE EAST; "ITS FRENCH LANGUAGE COUNTERPART, LIBERATION,

"THE AUTHOR OF THE DEIR YASSINE MASSACRE TO HEAD THE NEW ISRAELI  
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GOVERNMENT." AL ALAM (ISTIQLAL) - "THE LIKUD REFUSES TO WITHDRAW FROM THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, REJECTS ANY NOTION OF A PALESTINIAN STATE."

4. PLO SPOKESMEN ARE WIDELY CITED. AL ANBA QUOTES MAJID ABU SHARARAH THAT "BEGIN IS AN INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN TERRORIST;" AL ALAM PICKS UP DAUD BARAKAT'S WARNING THAT "ARABS MUST PREPARE FOR FIFTH WAR, AND MAROC SOIR CITES PLO PARIS REPRESENTATIVE

EZZEDINE KALAK THAT "BEGIN'S GREATER ISRAEL IDEAS CAN ONLY INCREASE TENSION AND THREATEN INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY."

5. CHOICE OF HEADLINES AND PLO COMMENTATORS TO PRESENT LIKUD VICTORY INDICATE THAT MOROCCAN PRESS, BOTH PRO-GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION, FEEL SERIOUSLY THREATENED BY LIKUD VICTORY AND CONSEQUENTLY, EXPRESS A GREATER SENSE OF SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINIANS AND FRONT-LINE STATES. ANDERSON

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## Message Attributes

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